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STUDY and RECLASSIFICATION
of the
MT. JEFFERSON PRIMITIVE AREA

Deschutes, Mt. Hood, and Willamette
National Forests



Mt. Jefferson across Marion Lake



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region
1961

STUDY AND RECLASSIFICATION OF THE MT. JEFFERSON PRIMITIVE AREA

The Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area, comprising 86,700 acres of national forest land, is presently under study by the U.S. Forest Service. The study is part of a nation-wide schedule to review Primitive areas on all national forests to determine their suitability for reclassification as Wilderness under revised regulations. The revised regulations define wilderness use and protection more fully than earlier regulations under which Primitive areas were established originally.

History of Wilderness Dedication

The Forest Service initiated the wilderness concept. In the 1920's studies of the Cascades and similar areas in other regions gave early recognition to wilderness values. The Department of Agriculture adopted regulations in 1929 which provided for classification and protection of these values. The lands so classified were named Primitive Areas (Regulation L-20). By 1939, eight Primitive Areas totaling 1,692,243 acres had been established on ten national forests of the Pacific Northwest Region. The Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area was one of the first areas established.

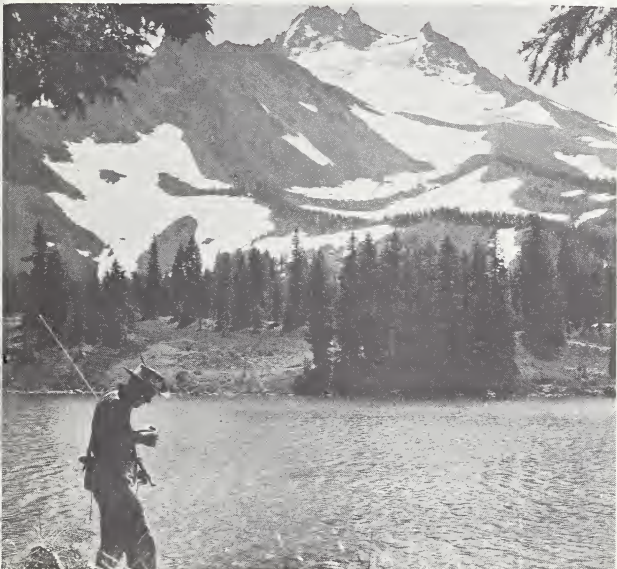
As experience in the management and protection of Primitive areas was gained, it became apparent more definitive regulations were needed to maintain the wilderness environment fully. Department of Agriculture regulations were revised in 1939 (Regulations U-1 and U-2) to provide new authority for establishment and protective management of these national forest lands which were renamed Wilderness and Wild areas.

Under Wilderness or Wild classification timber harvest, road construction and commercial development are not permitted. Grazing, hunting, fishing, and prospecting are permitted.

There are now three Wilderness areas, nine Wild areas, and two remaining Primitive areas (both under study), totaling 2,133,423 acres in the Pacific Northwest Region. These constitute about 8.9% of the national forest land area of the region.

Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area

The Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area is located on the Deschutes, Mt. Hood, and Willamette National Forests. It extends from the vicinity of Breitenbush Lake southward 22 miles along the crest of the Cascades nearly to the Santiam Highway (US 20). The area is bordered on the northeast by the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Elevations vary from approximately 3500 to 10,497 feet. The high point is Mt. Jefferson, the second highest peak in Oregon. The Primitive Area in-



Scout Lake in Jefferson Park



View westward from Hunts Cove

cludes many forest types and conditions, ranging from heavily forested slopes and lava fields at the lower elevation to alpine meadows, rock barrens, and snow fields and glaciers on the slopes of Mt. Jefferson. The Primitive Area is well known for its numerous lakes. The largest and best-known of these is Marion Lake which adjoins the area on the west.

Wilderness in Multiple Use Management

National forests are managed for multiple use and sustained yield. The requirements of our growing population for more complete use of all national forest resources are increasing steadily, not only in the northwest but also throughout the nation. There are greater numbers of people to camp, ski, and relax on the national forests. More wood products are needed. Greater numbers of hunters and fishermen

seeking recreation use the game ranges, streams, and lakes. Industries need additional water and power generated by the run-off from national forest areas. More people are interested in Wilderness and in the beauty and solitude it provides. These growing requirements cannot be met by adding to the area of forest land. Indeed, the area of national forests will probably be reduced in some degree by the acres required for reservoirs, transmission lines, roads, and similar essential developments in the years ahead. The needs of the future can be met only by intensive, harmonious management carefully planned and fully implemented for all forest land resources. Wilderness is a recognized and important use of national forest land. Dedication of forest land to Wilderness requires detailed study. Wilderness use, like any use, must be coordinated with all the other resources of the forest.



East face of Three Finger Jack

Ranger district multiple use plans will be the basis for study of the Mt. Jefferson area. Multiple use plans are made for each national forest ranger district. The objective of each plan is to provide management practices to all the various renewable surface resources of the ranger districts so they are utilized in the combination which will best serve the needs of the American people. They aim at the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services. The areas must be large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions.

The Study

The study of the Mt. Jefferson Primitive Area is currently under way and will extend into 1962. All available resource information and needs will be reviewed. In addition, the study will give consideration to the views and opinions of the public. The views of all interested groups and individuals are invited. Comments should be directed to the supervisors of the Deschutes National Forest, Bend, Oregon; the Mt. Hood National Forest, Portland, Oregon; or the Willamette National Forest in Eugene, Oregon. To receive full consideration they should be received prior to December 1, 1961.



